

doubt as to MacDonald's being seriously on anything that could be called "the Left "

The juxtaposition of these two so different men, that occurs, again and again, throughout their careers, might have culminated in a moment of genuine drama had Webb, in 1931, been willing to contest Seaham against the National Government's Prime Minister, and the result might have been very different from what did occur in October 1931, had he done so. Hard to imagine his being willing, he has never, at any stage, permitted himself to be involved in any course of action that his own quick sensitiveness, or that of anyone else, could stigmatise as * not cricket " Certainly, in 1922, and from 1922 on till the "Crisis," his loyalty to the chosen leader of the Labour party was perfect. It continued unswervingly through the years from 1922 to 1929, and, in 1929, was most strikingly demonstrated when, at MacDonald's personal appeal, he consented to carry on the burden of co-operation not only as a Minister, but as a peer.

With MacDonald, in the first year of his life as an M. P., his association was constant, if not close. He had himself been elected Chairman of the Labour Party's National Executive, with MacDonald as his Vice-Chairman, he presided over the Annual Conference which, in the summer of 1923, was held in London, in the Queen's Hall. A Conference which had its very difficult moments, he managed with success. The vital attributes of a chairman—mastery of procedure and of business, and a swift capacity to make

up his mind—he possesses, fully His voice, it
is true, is
not of a size, nor of a timbre, to prevail above
noise, but, as
he mildly pointed out, delegates, if quiet
themsehes, would
find no difficulty in hearing him The immense
respect in
which he is held largely prevailed in the main
to keep them
quiet His Presidential address, noting the
steady and
surprisingly rapid rise of Labour to political
power and